



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES**

**GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL
TO THE
DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES**

October 15, 2013

The Governor's Advisory Council to the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services met on October 15, 2013, at the 1056 Woodbrook Conference Room, Dover.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Anthony Horstman, Chair
Timothy F. Brooks, Ed.D.
Thomas Rust

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Jamie Doane
Angela Sipple
Terri Hancharick

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Jane Gallivan
Warren Ellis
Pat Weygandt
Leslie Hailey
Vicky Gordy - minutes

GUEST PRESENT: Vicki Haschak and Brian Hartman

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: November 19, 2013 – 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
1056 Woodbrook Conference Room, Dover

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Lack of a quorum precluded approval of minutes, although the members present seconded and approved the motion. A vote will again be taken at the next Council Meeting.

Additions to the Agenda No additions revealed.

DDDS Housing Vacancies

Pat reported currently there are 22 vacancies (2.8%), 16 in group homes (7 ARC homes) and 6 in CLA's. As of October 14th, 19 clients are moved into chosen locations, 16 clients have move in dates, and 59 clients continue to "shop" for placement locations. To date 94 clients have made their placement choice. Available HCBS waived slots are closely managed to provide an accurate count. Critical needs clients take precedence over other placements.

DDDS FY 13 Census

The DDDS FY 13 Census will be provided during the next meeting in order to give the Council a review of the quarter.

The Council asked for the percentage of individuals who guardians support.

Judge Rotenberg Center

The letter was crafted and sent via certified mail to Judge Rotenberg Center (JRC), which cites the out of compliance issues regarding the use of aversive treatments used in both home and day programs and if JRC would like to continue to be an approved provider in Delaware, cited treatment practices must stop immediately.

Family Support Waiver – Update

Jane continues to reach out to families. Tonight she is meeting at Autism Delaware in Milton and tomorrow night she is scheduled to attend the Delaware Family Voices meeting via the Charlton School PTA/PAC Meeting in Camden-Wyoming. The DDDS Sussex County Open Forum will be held at the Georgetown Public Library on October 21st and the DDDS Kent County Open Forum will be held at the Dover Public Library on November 5th. New Castle County Open Forum is expected to occur soon.

Common themes of needs throughout family meetings continue as drop in support services, respite services, transportation supports, medication and dental supports, social opportunities for individuals and families and knowledge of current supports available. The underlying culture appears to be that families are seeking knowledge and resources for their family. Families are looking for avenues to learn from other families via social opportunities. Families need knowledge in order to gain control of family supports. DDDS continues to seek avenues to provide families guidance to obtain necessary supported services as evidenced by the recent "Meet and Greet" that was held at Fox Run, where approximately 30 people attended. The "Meet and Greet" sessions are to help form a community bond where questions can be asked (i.e. SS issues, placement issues, services available, etc.) and answers are given. The hope is for more individuals/families to socialize to help with placements, which reinforces the need to facilitate these types of sessions. Currently, DDDS is struggling to engage families in Kent and Sussex Counties and is investigating different avenues for community involvement in these counties. DDDS is following and respecting the process, which includes the next step of

possible forums for providers, families and individuals to meet and have a question and answer sessions in each county.

The Council discussed that the ARC has indicated that they intend to conduct a survey around Family Support Services. DDDS has been legislated to provide a study of family support needs and has told the ARC that DDDS will include data if they complete the survey in a timely fashion.

Home & Community Based Waiver – Update

CMS approved the HCBS waiver amendments. Amendments included revisions of the supported employment definition and the addition of a “Supported Employment Group” definition. Supported employment definition revisions include staffing must be at 1:1 ratio and client’s must be employed at minimum wage or higher. “Supported Group Employment” definition supports groups up to a 1:8 staffing ratio. Renewal for the entire HCBS Waiver deadline is July 1, 2014. DDDS is tracking changes to update language although only minor changes may occur in the renewal waiver application and amendments sought as necessary.

Department of Labor-In Home Care Workers Covered by Fair Labor Standards Act

The webinar regarding this subject was postponed due to the government shutdown. The Department of Labor representatives are schedule to attend the November NASDDDS Conference.

Therap News

DDDS checks on the status of the RFP every other week, which continues the review process at DTI. DHSS and DDDS continue to push for the finalization of the RFP.

STAND Project

Leslie Hailey presented information regarding the STAND (Stop The Abuse Now Delaware) Project, which is funded by a grant from Developmental Disabilities Council. This project brings together people with disabilities, professionals and community members to work toward reducing the risk of victimization for those with disabilities. Leslie reported TAPD is actively recruiting trainers to include posting flyers in communities. Handouts explaining the STAND Project, flyers to recruit trainers and “confidence cards” used to provide emergency information were distributed to the Council. Leslie reported that the training could easily be adaptable for any type of disability.

Discussion surrounded how raising the awareness of abuse may increase the number of complaints of abuse reported to DDDS; data will be collected to track increase of abuse complaints per Warren Ellis.

Secretary Landgraf provided the introduction and the mental health community is aware of the STAND Project.

The Council would like to provide support to the STAND Project and requested updates.

Steps being taken by the Division to Attempt to Eliminate Excess Medication

The Council discussed implications of polypharmacy within the developmental disabled community. Clients who are prescribed many medications are reviewed monthly and medication review occurs during PROBIS. Medical community reviews if over certain thresholds. DDDS has difficulties challenging prescribed medications without a physician. Polypharmacy is a national issue. Legally, any medication changes for an individual must be approved by the individual or their guardian and documented accordingly. Documentation of medication changes will be discussed with DELARF. Medications are captured in Therap in T-Logs, which continues to be developed for improvements.

Education for families is necessary to provide baseline knowledge of prescribed medications. Collaborating with Delaware Family Voices may be an ideal approach.

DHSS is investigating possibilities of developing a Dual Diagnosis Clinic, which Dr. Gallucci is spearheading and envisions providing telemedicine via Johns Hopkins Hospital. The founder of the National Association for the Dually Diagnosed, Dr. Fletcher will be providing training in Delaware on December 5th. Continuing education credits are being developed, which may attract the mental health field. DDDS behavior staff are first in line to attend training and case managers and high staff management may attend as well.

DDDS is attempting to build the foundation for the mental health community to acknowledge that developmental disabled individuals may have mental illness as well.

Owners/Lessors of Group Homes

The Council reviewed the group home ownership spreadsheet that Pat Weygandt provided to the Council via e-mail sent on September 26, 2013.

DDDS recently revised the memorandum of understanding with The ARC. The ARC Housing Committee includes representatives from DDDS and meetings are occurring. The ARC and DDDS is investigating need for a replacement plan, which continues to be discussed. Some ARC homes (not under HUD) may be sold to purchase new homes. ARC homes are highlighted in yellow on the spreadsheet. Some homes may have private owners who lease to provider agencies. DDDS is not limited to nonprofit leases and keeps in mind that leases fall within fair market value.

PM 62 outlines acceptable cost for leases, implemented on October 15, 2010. Therefore, DDDS is not in compliance due to rising costs. Lottie Lee of DSAAPD is reviewing PM 62 for necessary revisions to include reviewing current leases and costs.

Reports include that individuals are gravitating toward townhomes or apartment settings. Discussion included how purchased or leased homes are made accessible or if they are deemed accessible before purchased or leased. Homes need different degrees of accessibility as not all

individuals DDDS supports need accessible housing. Families are creative in thinking of ways to support family members as evidenced by one family purchasing another house on same street for family member to include live in supports. DDDS continues to work on providing drop in supports for families.

Announcements and Informational Items

DHSS Public Budget Hearings are scheduled for November 26th at 10:00 a.m. in the Senate Chambers of Legislative Hall.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.